

Express Mail No.: ER224694965US

M02B123

10/521526

DT39 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 JAN 2005

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No. : TBA Inventor : Stratton et al.  
Attorney Docket : M02B123 Group Art Unit : TBA  
Filed : January 14, 2005 Examiner : TBA  
Title : THERMAL TREATMENT METHOD

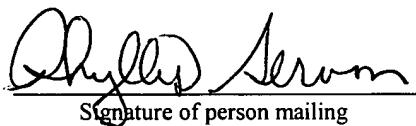
MAIL STOP: Commissioner for Patents  
PO BOX 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
on: January 14, 2005.

(Date)

PHYLLIS SERVON  
Printed name of person signing this certificate

  
Signature of person mailing

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In advance of examination on the merits in connection with the application identified above, please amend such application as follows.